



## **Press Release**

**Kansas City, Mo., March 20, 2009**

**For Immediate Publication**

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## **Law Week 2009**

### **A Legacy of Liberty – Celebrating Lincoln’s Bicentennial**

A Legacy of Liberty – Celebrating Lincoln’s Bicentennial is the focus of Law Week 2009. The Young Lawyers Section (YLS) of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBA) will celebrate Law Week April 6 - 10, 2009—by hosting activities around the Kansas City metropolitan area. Law Week is an annual event aimed at providing the public with access to and knowledge of the legal system, while highlighting the role of attorneys in the community and improving the public perception of the legal profession. Activities will focus on Lincoln’s legacy and his impact on social movements and constitutional democracy throughout American history.

In 2009 we will mark the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, regarded by many as our nation’s greatest and most eloquent president. Lincoln, who devoted much of his adult life to the practice of law, was the quintessential American lawyer-president. His background in the law informed both his actions and his oratory.

In his Gettysburg Address of 1863, Lincoln articulated his vision of American constitutional union, to be forged in the crucible of a “great civil war” and tested by the shared anguish of national sacrifice. For Lincoln, this vision begins— fourscore and seven years before—with the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration marks the origins of “a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

Law week has always been one of the most important events for the YLS and KCMBA because of the importance of educating the public on the role of the legal system in our lives. Over the

course of the week, more than 100 lawyers will give back to the community as volunteers for this important celebration.

This year the YLS again partners with Fox4 for the Ask-A-Lawyer program. With its solid commitment to helping the community with its Problem Solvers investigative unit, Fox4 is a strong ally for activities that will help place focus on ways the rule of law touches peoples' lives and, also, on the services lawyers provide in helping to provide foundations of opportunity and equity in the community.

### **Ask-A-Lawyer Telethon**

Held in conjunction with Fox4 and its Problem Solvers Investigative Unit, this event runs from Monday, April 6 through the evening of Thursday, April 9. Hours for each evening will be 5 to 7 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m., where lawyers will help answer legal questions from callers.

### **Radio Disney**

KCMBA's Young Lawyers Section has teamed with Radio Disney to promote law education and the 2009 theme, *A Legacy of Liberty: Celebrating Lincoln's Bicentennial*. The campaign will run throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area from April 2 through May 1. Radio Disney AM 1190 will air public service announcements touting law education throughout the campaign. Two *KC Kids Concerns* public affairs shows will air with KCMBA YLS lawyers discussing President Lincoln's legacy. Other anticipated productions include a 60-minute public event and 45-minute events at select middle schools to focus on President Lincoln's impact on the law, with presentations by Radio Disney's *Rockin' Road Crew* and KCMBA lawyers.

### **State v. Gold E. Locks**

Young lawyers and a veteran judge will present the criminal trial of Gold E. Locks, who has been charged with trespassing and property damage, to groups of elementary students from schools around the area. While the young lawyers conduct the trial, the students sit as the jury to decide the fate of the defendant in this first-hand look at the legal system.

### **Naturalization Ceremony**

With the cooperation of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the YLS is sponsoring a naturalization ceremony at the Federal Courthouse on Friday, April 10 at 1 p.m. As part of the ceremony, the YLS will welcome the new citizens and emphasize the importance of the American legal system.

***Note to media: Specific times for each event will be provided on Monday morning, March 31.***

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association serves approximately 5,000 members in the nine-county Kansas City metro area: Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas and Cass, Clay, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte and Ray counties in Missouri. The mission of this Association is to serve our members and our community by promoting justice, professional excellence and respect for the law.